

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No.: 9907
Koichiro TANAKA et al.) Group Art Unit: 2895
Serial No.: 10/585,128) Examiner: Joannie A. Garcia
Filed: June 30, 2006)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND)
ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD)

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed March 16, 2011, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 30, 2006 and September 3, 2010.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-39 are pending in the present application, of which claims 14, 15, 26 and 27 are independent. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of dependent claims 24 and 36 if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 14-23, 25-35 and 37-39 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0216012 to Sasaki, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0266223 to Tanaka, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0086182 to Tanaka and U.S.